

Michigan State Police, Emergency Management and Homeland Security Division
Status Update: June 17, 2008 at 3 p.m.

State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC)

The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) was activated following a series of severe storms commencing on June 6 and continuing through June 13. Daily operation of the SEOC continues today. Key state agencies continue to monitor the event and provide resources to meet public health and safety needs. State resources are being deployed based on local requests, availability and geographic areas. The key agencies include Agriculture; Community Health; Environmental Quality; Military and Veterans Affairs; Natural Resources; State Police; Transportation; and the MSP/EMHSD. A FEMA Region V liaison is also present in the SEOC.

On Monday, June 16, at 9 a.m., a briefing and organizational meeting was held in the SEOC with the involved state agencies to provide the latest incident information and to further define specific mission assignments for work in the five declared areas. Each agency provided an update on its mission-related activities as well as the agency assets that are available for its assigned missions.

The SEOC will continue to be staffed from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. throughout the week or until needs dictate otherwise. The mission in the SEOC continues to be identifying and addressing the most critical public safety/health mission assignments and providing the necessary assistance to the declared areas.

Federal and State Agency Responses

On June 16, Governor Granholm signed an Executive Order activating Michigan National Guard assistance for the removal of debris to protect public safety and health in the five declared areas.

MDOT worked with Mason County road crews during the weekend to assist with barricading of washed out roads, and will continue to do so as needed in the coming days. In addition, the MDOT will be providing dump trucks, front end loaders, and other heavy equipment, along with personnel to provide assistance with road repair and rebuilding activities in Mason County. In the City of Saginaw, the MDOT will be providing debris removal assistance on the state trunk lines located within the city limits. In Eaton County, the MDOT is assisting the county road commission with the assessment of damage to washed out roadways and culverts. The US-31 rebuilding project is progressing rapidly. Final paving began today, June 16, and the roadway may be reopened to traffic as early as tomorrow, June 17.

The MDA intercounty drain inspectors are in contact with the Allegan County Drain Commissioner and will be developing a plan of action for providing state assistance with drain inspection activities.

The MDEQ dam safety staff inspected both the Hamlin Lake Dam and the Farwell Dam and found them to be structurally sound. They continue to monitor both dams in conjunction with local officials (and in the case of the Hamlin Lake Dam, the Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources). The MDEQ is evaluating assistance options for water sampling and laboratory analysis services in Allegan, Mason, and Ottawa counties.

The MDMVA provided debris removal work crews to work with City of Lansing crews all day on Monday, and continue today.

The MDNR reopened Ludington State Park on Monday afternoon, June 16, with some restrictions for visitors to the park but continues to monitor conditions. In addition, the MDNR will be providing supplemental debris removal assistance to the City of Saginaw. The MDNR will continue to monitor the Hamlin Lake Dam. MDNR debris removal crews began work in the City of Saginaw this morning.

The MDOC has two work crews (app. 40-50 inmates) on standby to provide debris removal assistance in the City of Lansing and/or City of Saginaw. The MDOC is also identifying department equipment assets that might be used in those debris removal operations.

The MSP provided assistance with access control in Mason County throughout the weekend and into Monday. MSP forces were demobilized at 7 p.m. on June 16.

The MSP/EMHSD is providing guidance to the MDOC, MDMVA, and MDOT regarding what constitutes the most serious debris-related public safety and health risks prior to those agencies commencing debris management field work this week. The MSP/EMHSD has addressed a number of media inquiries regarding the status of the storm recovery efforts, including one from the CBS Evening News for storm-related cost and damage figures and a number regarding the National Guard activation.

FEMA and the USACE have been coordinating with Mason County / City of Ludington officials regarding the issue of silt and other debris clogging the Ludington public harbor and possibly impacting navigational capabilities. It has been suggested that a harbor / channel dredging project may be required to fully restore navigational capabilities. The USACE has separate emergency authority to implement such a project, absent a federal emergency / major disaster declaration, if the silt / debris negatively impacts navigation. The USACE will follow up with local officials in the coming days to determine the feasibility for a harbor / dredging project.

Governor's Declarations under 1976 PA 390, as amended

On June 13, Governor Granholm signed five separate "state of emergency" proclamations to mobilize direct state resources to assist Allegan, Eaton, and Mason counties and the cities of Lansing and Saginaw to address immediate threats to public health and safety.

Local Declarations

Eaton County (June 8)
City of Lansing (June 8)
Ottawa County (June 9)
Delta Township (June 9)
Allegan County (June 10, submitted June 11 to MSP/EMHSD)
Saginaw County (June 11)
Osceola County (June 11)
Barry County (June 12)
Lake County (June 13)
Mason County (June 13)

Governor's Declarations- June 13

- Allegan County
- Eaton County
- Mason County
- City of Lansing
- City of Saginaw

Pending Requests for a Governor's Declaration

- Osceola County requested June 11
- Ottawa County requested June 13
- Lake County requested June 16

Storm Related Fatalities

There are six confirmed fatalities resulting from the severe weather on June 6-8, 2008. Three fatalities in Ottawa County, two fatalities in Allegan County, and one fatality in Delta Township (Eaton County). There are two fatalities confirmed in Argentine Township (Genesee County) on June 9 as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning from a generator located in the home used during an electricity outage.

A vehicle submerged in the Thornapple River in Kent County today at 4:30 a.m. resulting in one fatality. Reports indicate the car went into the river and traveled about 200 yards downstream from where it left the road. There is a strong current in the river due to increased water levels from recent rain.